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James T. Jardine, 1881-1954

James Tertius Jardine, who died in Washington, D. C., on October 24, 1954, was one of the Nation's outstanding agricultural leaders. His scientific and administrative contributions have had great influence on agricultural progress during the first half of the 20th century.

He was the son of a Scottish immigrant and the brother of William M. Jardine, who became Secretary of Agriculture under President Coolidge. He was born at Cherry Creek, Idaho, and spent a large part of his first 14 years riding the range on his father's ranch. He obtained his bachelor's degree in civil engineering at Utah State Agricultural College, and attended the University of Chicago in 1905 and 1906. After returning to Utah State Agricultural College to teach, he became a special agent for the U. S. Forest Service in 1907. In the following 10 years he advanced in the Forest Service from deputy forest supervisor in 1908 to inspector of grazing and in charge of range investigations and surveys from 1910 to 1920. In 1920 he became director of the Oregon Experiment Station, serving there until 1931, when he was named Chief of the Office of Experiment Stations in the U. S. Department of Agriculture. In addition to this assignment, under which he administered the Federal-grant funds to State experiment stations, he was named Director of Research for the Department of Agriculture in 1936, which position he held until December 1941. He retired as Chief of the Office of Experiment Stations in 1946. He was awarded honorary doctor of science degrees by Kansas State College in 1935, by Clemson College in 1937, and by Utah State Agricultural College in 1946.

After giving brilliant leadership in the Forest Service, then under the administration of Gifford Pinchot, Dr. Jardine entered a new career that had much to do with the development and growth of Oregon agriculture. He became director of the State experiment station in 1920. At that time the staff numbered 56, of whom 38 were also engaged in teaching and 12 in extension work. Ten

years later 43 of the 79 staff members were engaged exclusively in station research. During this period the total revenues rose from \$164,900 in 1920 to \$408,439 in 1930. The scope of the research carried on by the experiment station had been greatly broadened and its influence widely extended.

While director of the Oregon Experiment Station, Dr. Jardine was active in the Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities and served as chairman of the Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy from 1927 to 1931. During that period a survey was made of the land-grant colleges and universities by the U. S. Office of Education. As chairman of the 10 experiment station directors who interpreted the data on the status of agricultural research at the stations, Dr. Jardine devoted several months toward preparation of the manuscript, regarded since as a basic document in land-grant college policy. Dr. Jardine also took a leading part, while Oregon station director, in developing the essentials of experiment station research project outlines. These outlines became the basis for scientific and administrative relationships between the State stations and the Office of Experiment Stations as representing the agricultural research conducted in the States with Federal-grant funds.

On becoming Chief of the Office of Experiment Stations, Dr. Jardine worked to bring about closer cooperative relationships between the research agencies of the Department and the State agricultural experiment stations. With a rich background of planning, developing, and administering agricultural research on the State level, he was in a position to recognize shortcomings and to work with station directors and land-grant college officials in developing cooperative planning and more effective coordination of agricultural research for the benefit of farm people.

Following passage of the Bankhead-Jones Act of 1935, Dr. Jardine initiated the organization under which nine (originally eight) regional laboratories are administered by different research branches of the Department in close

cooperation with the State experiment stations. State station directors were consulted to help decide what laboratories would be needed and where they were to be located. The administrative procedure for research at the regional laboratories was established in a written statement by the Secretary of Agriculture on December 19, 1935, and approved by representatives of State experiment stations.

The nine regional laboratories are as follows:

Regional Vegetable Breeding Laboratory, established November 30, 1935, near Charleston, S. C.

Regional Pasture Research Laboratory, established February 20, 1936, at State College, Pa.

Regional Soybean Industrial Products Laboratory, established February 20, 1936, at Urbana, Ill.

Regional Swine Breeding Laboratory, established December 22, 1936, at Ames, Iowa.

Regional Sheep Breeding Laboratory, established February 24, 1937, at Dubois, Idaho.

Regional Animal Disease Laboratory, established February 24, 1937, at Auburn, Ala.

Regional Laboratory for Improvement of Viability in Poultry, established December 23, 1937, at East Lansing, Mich.

Regional Salinity Laboratory, established December 23, 1937, at Riverside, Calif.

Regional Laboratory for Research into the Relation of Soils to Plant, Animal, and Human Nutrition, established January 31, 1939, at Ithaca, N. Y.

Dr. Jardine was also given a major responsibility by the Secretary of Agriculture in developing plans for the four regional research laboratories authorized under section 202 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 and later placed under administration of the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry. Here he applied the same principles and procedures of cooperation developed in connection with the regional Bankhead-Jones research laboratories. The objective was to seek new outlets for surplus farm products

through scientific research in four laboratories to be located in the four major geographic regions of the country. Dr. Jardine was given responsibility for early negotiations with Congress concerning development activities and the types of structures to be built. Long after retirement he told a friend that one of his principal satisfactions during a lifetime of public service had grown out of the work done toward getting the regional research laboratory system established. The four utilization research laboratories are located at Albany, Calif.; Peoria, Ill.; New Orleans, La.; and Philadelphia, Pa.

The nine regional Bankhead-Jones Laboratories and the four regional utilization research laboratories stand as lasting monuments to the spirit of close State and Federal relationships in scientific agricultural research and development, a spirit that was nurtured and encouraged throughout his lifetime by James T. Jardine. However, he never relinquished his strong personal conviction that the land-grant college agricultural experiment station is the primary agency contributing to the scientific advancement of agriculture at the grass roots.

R. W. Trullinger
Washington, D. C.
October 26, 1954





